

# What Next in Palestine?

## Can the Dry Bones Live?

By  
REV. EMIL D. GRUEN

Field Evangelist  
American Board of Missions  
to the Jews, Inc.



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“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were many in the open valley; and, lo, **THEY WERE VERY DRY**. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live?”

*Ezekiel 37:1-3.*

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**T**HERE is no problem more vexing, and more fraught with danger than that presented by the little country of Palestine. It is today a powder keg which can well produce the third world war. It seems to have an importance in world affairs entirely unjustified by its size and apparent strategic value to world powers.

A friend well expressed the confusion this creates in the minds of many, in these words, "I cannot for the life of me understand why there should be so much fuss over a little piece of land, no larger than Rhode Island." It would be well to clear up this point at the very outset of our consideration of Palestine.

### BOUNDARIES ORIGINALLY SET BY GOD

We are not left in doubt as to the extent of the real boundaries of God's Pal-

estine. Two passages of Scripture give them to us. In Genesis 15:18 we read:

“Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”

And in Exodus 23:31 God says:

“I will set thy bounds from the Red Sea, even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river.”

Now if we will square off these boundaries, from the Nile on the south to the Euphrates on the north; from the Arabian Desert on the east to the Mediterranean on the west, we will find that we have a land area nearly twenty-five times the size of Palestine today. And we must remember that God is not a niggardly giver. So we find that that land is rich in oil, chemicals, raw materials, precious metals and a very productive soil. It contains more than two thirds of the known oil resources in the world today, over and above the multi-billion dollar wealth of chemicals in the Dead Sea—a rich prize indeed.

## THE WORLD POWERS NEED PALESTINE

Although it is not my purpose to make this a study in contemporary history, it would be well to look at the nations which are now involved in the Palestine

problem, and see why they are so involved.

There is first of all, Great Britain. She needs Palestine to continue her empire policy and to protect her empire life-line, the Suez Canal. This nation's interest in Palestine, like her interest in all of her colonies, is of course one of self-interest. That is why, when it served her purpose, she made two diametrically opposed promises to the two peoples most concerned in Palestine during the first World War. To the Jews she promised, through Lord Balfour, to facilitate in Palestine the creating of a homeland for them. To the Arabs she promised, through Colonel Lawrence, British Colonial representative to the Arabs, that she would maintain the status quo in Palestine for a price—that they revolt against Turkey, and thereby weaken the position of the central powers in the Near East. Since Britain received the Mandate over Palestine in 1922, she has been plagued with these two contradictory commitments. And since the Arabs seemed to give promise of greater importance to Britain than the Jews, in the post-war period, it was ultimately the Arabs who were favored in their efforts to achieve predominance in Palestine.

From 1922 to 1944 the Jewish population of Palestine increased from 84,000

to 504,000, and the non-Jewish (Arab), from 668,000 to 1,174,000. Then the White Paper of 1939, a document of British origin, limited the Jewish immigration to 75,000 over a five year period, after which all further immigration was to cease. But no limit was ever placed on Arab immigration, so that today the Arabs outnumber the Jews more than two to one.

### INTRIGUE WITH ABDULLAH

Furthermore, Britain divided Palestine from above the Sea of Galilee on the north to a point below the southern tip of the Dead Sea. Everything east of the Jordan River she gave to King Abdullah, and created the satellite of Trans-Jordania. This was contrary to the Mandate of the League of Nations. She subsidized this nation to the tune of seven million dollars per year, and in return she took 30,000 natives whom she trained, equipped, officered, and used, to control Palestine. These were the soldiers, British trained, equipped and still British officered, who attempted to drive the Jews out of Palestine after May 15, 1948; and they were the only ones who had any degree of success. Immediately we had the amazing spectacle of King Abdullah attempting to establish himself as the King of Palestine. And while his bold scheme had

the approval and connivance of the British Government, the six other Arab nations rebelled openly and vigorously. Naturally if Abdullah's ambitions could succeed, this would enable Britain to continue her death grip on important parts of Palestine and the Near East.

## RUSSIA IN THE PICTURE

Russia also has her eyes on Palestine: With her goal the destruction of the democratic way of life, she knows that eventually it will mean war. Three things are needed for modern warfare; manpower, oil and raw materials. Of these three she only has one, manpower. But oil and raw materials in abundance are in Palestine. So she is beginning to cast covetous eyes southward. Ezekiel 38 tells us how Russia will attempt to obtain possession of the materials she wants.

The Arabs too are involved in Palestine, but only as a rallying cry for the larger scheme, namely, a great Arab nation. The foundation for this was laid by former President Roosevelt and our State Department, after the Yalta conference. We created a Frankenstein monster in the Pan-Arab Union which may one day turn on its creator and attempt to destroy him. It is quite possible that the Arabs

will join with Russia at the time of crisis. In his heart, the Arab hates the westerner, because Christianity is the religion of the West. And the sword of Islam is ever raised against the Cross. Had it not been for the petty jealousies of the various Arab chiefs, we might have seen this all-Arab nation formed during the Arab-Jewish crisis in Palestine. So far they have not been able to submerge their differences. But it only needs a strong leader to bring that to pass. It may be Abdullah, whose secret ambition it is to be the head of all Arabs, and whose ambition is furthered by Britain; or it may be some one yet unknown. One thing is certain, Ishmael will not rest until he has destroyed Isaac and his seed.

### **"WHERE SHALL WE GO?"**

Then there are the Jews: They too have a need for Palestine, a two-fold one. To the Jew of Europe, Palestine is the only possible place of refuge left on this earth. They must leave Europe; too often its soil has been drenched with their blood. They have no further abiding place there. A European Jew, writing to his friend in New York City, well expressed it in these words, "The soil of Europe is burning our feet." But where can they go? Every nation, including our own, has



closed its doors to the refugee Jew; only Palestine is left.

### **"WE WANT A KING!"**

Then there is another reason, which affects the Jews the world over. Palestine must be the seat of a national government. There must be a Jewish nation, with representatives in all other nations, to protest when its nationals are mistreated. The Jew reasons this way: Now we are helpless, at the mercy of all, for there is no one to speak for us with authority. But if we become a recognized nation, with representatives at all governments, then we will have a voice that can be raised in protest; a voice that will be recognized. Then we will be able to make our protests heard, and we will be given redress when we are abused. Palestine is the logical and traditional place for such a Jewish nation. And on May 16, 1948, this came to be when the Israeli government was established in Tel Aviv.

I have not placed the United States in this consideration of national interests in Palestine, for a very obvious reason. We have no definite Palestine policy! We are governed on the one hand by the British Colonial policy, which has dominated the thinking of our State Department since Roosevelt's day, and on the other hand,

we are concerned about the more than two and a half billion dollars invested in Arab oil. When we consider these political problems, it is easy to understand why we have resorted to such cowardly expediency and why we brought upon ourselves such shame as we have in our bungling of the Palestine crises. We have permitted foreign thinking and dollar diplomacy to blind our eyes to human need.

### **GOD'S ANSWER TO THE PALESTINE MUDDLE**

Having considered some of the more obvious phases of the contemporary Palestine scene, we must come to the conclusion that something is missing. The picture is too hazy, something vital to the question has been left out. To find this missing element, we must follow the suggestion made by an English preacher of some years ago. Speaking to his congregation he said: "My people, there is a land which is unlike any land on this earth. That land is Palestine. There is a people unlike any people created by God. That people is Israel. And there is a book unlike any book written by man. That book is the Bible. The only place where you will find any authoritative information about either the people or the land, is in the Book."

## WHAT DOES THE BOOK TELL US ABOUT PALESTINE?

First — that Israel owns the land. In Genesis 17:8 we have the title to the land given to Israel.

“And I will give unto thee (Abraham), and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an **everlasting** possession; and I will be their God.”

The land is to be the everlasting possession of Abraham and his seed. And lest any should lay claim to this promise, “thy seed,” for Ishmael’s descendants, and that is being done today by many who are pro-Arab, God makes it clear **which** seed is to inherit the land, in Genesis 17:19.

“Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with **his** seed after him.”

And further, in verses 20 and 21:

“As for Ishmael; I have blessed him . . . twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac.”

Secondly — Only Israel shall enjoy the land, in God’s ultimate purpose. Much has been said about Jewish exploitation of the poor natives of Palestine. Crocodile tears have been shed about the sad

state of these poor Arabs. "They have given up their ancestral lands to the Jews." They have been "pauperized" by the Jews, who have come in and by their greater abilities and resources have taken away from the Arabs their livelihood! One thing should be made clear here. Every inch of land which the Jews own in Palestine has been bought from the Arabs, and at extortionate prices. Even the Negev (South) was to be bought according to Jeremiah 32:43,44. Good gold was exchanged for poor land in proportion far beyond immediate worth. Furthermore the Jews have brought to Palestine a standard of living, sanitation and health facilities, and modern community methods which have enriched and greatly benefited the Arabs. Many believe that if they had been left alone, the Arab and Jewish farmers could have settled down to a happy co-existence on the land.

### **PRESENT-DAY ZIONISM NOT GOD'S WAY**

Many are concerned with the changes that have taken place in Palestine. The influx of Jews into the land, the almost miraculous rehabilitation of the land by the Jewish colonists, the establishment of the Israeli government, have all seemed a fulfillment of prophecy. Therefore,

many have asked whether this is the return of Israel to the land as foretold by the prophets. A study of the prophetic word will show us that the answer must be, "No." This is not God's regathering of Israel to the Land.

In Ezekiel 37 we have one of the prophetic pictures showing us the re-establishment of Israel in Palestine.

"Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (vs. 5, 6).

We must note here that the re-establishment of Israel upon the land and the accompanying blessings, are predicated upon their acknowledging Jehovah as their Lord. This is further emphasized in verses 13 and 14.

"And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves. And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord."

This will come to pass when God shall save that nation in a day. That great day

of Israel's national salvation described by the prophets with such yearning. Jeremiah tells us about this in Chapter 33, verses 7 and 8.

“And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first. And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.”

Zechariah gives us a further picture of that day of Israel's redemption in the 12th chapter, verses 10 and 12.

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born. And the land shall mourn, every family apart.”

We see here that the day of Israel's redemption is to be a day of mourning, a mourning deep and so despairing that they shall separate themselves and mourn as family groups. All shall be imbued with a deep sense of sin as they come face to face with Jesus Christ, the pierced One.

## IS THERE PENITENCE TODAY IN PALESTINE?

There is no evidence of such mourning in Palestine today. Furthermore, in that day there shall be a fountain opened to all of Israel — “a fountain for sin and for uncleanness,” (Zech. 13:1). The hymn writer, William Cowper, caught the full import of this great prophecy in these words:

“There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins.  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.”

Paul, envisioning that great day, describes it in these words which we read in Romans 11:26:

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

Two suggestions come to us out of these passages.

## NO HUMAN FLESH CAN HELP

First — that **God** will gather Israel. Not the United Nations, not any world-wide Zionist movement, not any great world power, but God. He will open their graves, He will gather them out of all the

countries, and He will plant them in the land.

Secondly — that when God re-establishes them upon the land, He will also redeem them. He will open their eyes and show them their sinful condition. He will give them a contrite heart and will cleanse them from their sin and uncleanness.

### **GOD'S REDEEMED ISRAEL WILL BE BLESSED**

When Israel has been redeemed and re-gathered upon her land, all the blessings, both spiritual and temporal, promised by the prophets, will be poured out upon her.

The prophet Zechariah describes that day in these words, as found in Zechariah 8:22, 23:

“Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.”

Again we can pause to ask, is that happening today? Nations have their faces turned toward Jerusalem, but not to seek the Lord.



In those days shall the land of Israel also rejoice in her redemption. That land, which because of Israel's sin has been desolate these thousands of years, shall again become the land flowing with milk and honey. God had warned Israel that the land would become desolate because of their sin. In Leviticus 26:33-34 we read,

"And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths."

But He also promised great blessings for the land when Israel will repent of her sin. In the same chapter, in verses 40 and 42 we read,

"If they shall confess their iniquity . . . then will I remember my covenant with Jacob . . . and I will remember the land."

And the prophet Amos gives us a picture of what it will be like in Palestine when God remembers the land. In Amos 9:13-15 we read,

"Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel, and they shall

build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God."

But this will come to pass only when Israel has repented of her sin and turned to her Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **ZIONISM'S SUCCESS A SATANIC DELUSION**

In the light of the passages which we have considered, it is obvious that whatever success the Jews may have had in Palestine is not of God. He has **permitted** the marvelous changes in the land, but only as a fore-shadowing of what will be when He fulfills His promises to Israel. There is no evidence whatever to support any claim that God's approval is upon Israel's actions in Palestine today. We shall show later on in this study that it is Satan, and not God, who is leading Israel today. And we shall show the amazing motive behind Satan's delusion.

The prophecy of Ezekiel regarding the dry bones shows us the process of Palestinian development, exactly as it has actually happened. In Ezekiel 37:7,8 we read,

“So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above; but there was no breath in them.”

Now note that although the body was complete, there was no breath in it. In other words, the Spirit of God was not in it. For God had promised in verse 6,

“ I will put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.”

Reports that come from Palestine make it evident that God has not been recognized by the Israeli nation. Oh yes, there has been some lip service given in public pronouncements, but there is every evidence to point to the fact that the Jews are establishing a materialistic state in Palestine. This is perfectly consistent with the ideology of the driving force behind the Israeli government, Zionism. Zionism is a political movement and has never professed the slightest interest in God or His Word. In the first election for a Constituent Assembly held by the Israeli government, the United Religious Party received only 17 out of a total of 121 seats. Even the Jewish national anthem, the Hatikvah, makes no mention of God. When we read the statements of Zionist leaders, we are told what they

have done, but no reference is made to God or His sovereign will in the life of Israel.

### **SATAN IS LURING THE JEW TO PALESTINE**

Satan can also, within the limits of God's permissive will, give success to endeavors of man, to the end that through the perversities of Satan, God's purposes may be fulfilled. Is it not written, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee" (Psalm 76:10). Here in Palestine he is crowning with apparent success the efforts of the Jews in order that he might lure many more to that unhappy land. He knows that the time is coming when Palestine will become the burial ground of two-thirds of Israel. He has always attempted to destroy them, and Palestine will be the land where he will put forth his greatest and final effort. Zechariah 13:8 gives the gruesome picture:

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein."

This will be Satan's final attempt to destroy Israel, and it, like all the other attempts, shall fail. God will once again step in, to save a remnant. Every Jew who goes to Palestine faces death. Rather than encouraging them to go there, we

should warn them against any such step. Our Mission has a tract for this very purpose entitled, "Don't Go to Jerusalem!" There is awaiting Israel a period of great sorrow in Palestine. Jeremiah calls it "the time of Jacob's trouble." And our Lord describes this time of suffering in Matthew 24:21,22:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

The only comforting word here is the promise that God will shorten the days for the elect's sake. God will save His remnant out of the great tribulation by His coming in power and glory. Zechariah sees this vision also:

"Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east." Zech. 14:3,4.

This brings us to our third important fact concerning Palestine.

### THE LAND SHALL SEE ISRAEL AVENGED

This land, given as an eternal heritage to Israel, has seen the desolation and

destruction of this people. Jewish blood has flowed like rivers over the terrain. Palestine has been used as a pawn in the game of world power politics without regard for the needs of its rightful owners. But God will not be forever unmindful of this; He declares that a day of judgment and retribution is coming. In Joel 3:2 we read:

"I will also gather all nations, and bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land."

We must note here that the partitioning of Palestine was foretold many thousand years ago, and that God is sore displeased with that so cowardly solution of the Palestine problem. Every nation which participated in this dividing of God's land is answerable to God and will receive punishment from Him.

Jeremiah describes the punishment of the nations as a just retribution for what they have done to Israel. In chapter 30 verse 16 we are told,

"Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thy adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey."

The devourer shall be devoured, the despoiler shall be despoiled, the capturer shall be the captive. What a warning this should be to the nations! History has proved these words to be true. Every civilization that has attempted to destroy the Jew has been destroyed. Had not God said to Abraham, "I will curse him that curseth thee"? Individual nations as well have experienced the truth of these words. Every nation that has raised its hand against Israel has been brought low by God. The word FINIS to the world power of Spain, Portugal, France, Germany and other nations, was written in the blood of Jews whom they killed.

Even as this has been true through the ages, it will one day come to pass for all the nations on the earth. All nations will one day have to face God's judgment. This great judgment of the nations is described to us by our Lord in Matthew 25:31,32.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats."

And what shall be the yardstick by which these nations shall be judged? Verse 40 of the same chapter makes that clear:

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

## GOD'S YARDSTICK IS HELD OVER THE CHURCH TODAY

Even as God is holding the nations of the earth accountable for their actions toward Israel, so He is holding the Church responsible for the spiritual welfare of the Jew today.

All of God's promises to Israel of eventual return, redemption and blessing in the land of Palestine speak to us of His great love for them. “But because the Lord loved you—hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand,” (Deuteronomy 7:8). God's love does not grow cold. “I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed,” is His promise to them in Malachi 3:6.

## NATIONAL RESTORATION VS. INDIVIDUAL SALVATION

But God also yearns for the soul of the Jew today, for He does not want that any soul should perish. We must never forget that under grace there is no difference in the nature of man. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die,” we are told in Ezekiel 18:20. Every Jew who today dies



without the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ is eternally lost, as lost as any heathen who is without the Saviour. The future of Israel is in the hands of God, but the soul welfare of the Jew today, He has placed in our keeping.

Just as God will destroy the world nations because of their political treacheries, so will He have to punish the Church of Christ because of her treachery in evading her Gospel obligations to this people. The Jew is hungry and thirsty in his soul; he is imprisoned by Satan and sin. He stands naked in the sight of God. Ours is the responsibility of bringing to him the "Bread of Life," "The Living Waters," the "garments of righteousness." We must tell him of Him Who come to lead captivity captive, and Who brake the bonds of hell. This we must do, for the Master's command is clear, "Ye are witnesses of these things," and the witness must be to the Jew first, "beginning at Jerusalem." If we fail to do this, then we shall stand condemned before our Lord.

### WILL YOU HELP US?

Dear friends, you who read this and are one with us in the Faith, you who believe the word in the Book, will you join hands with us in the carrying out of this great responsibility? Will you help

us to bring the right word of counsel, the real message of hope, to suffering, spiritually blinded Israel? Will you join with us in crying out to them, not Palestine, not Zionism, but Christ? "For neither is there salvation in any other." Join with us in this great battle with Satan for the souls of lost Israelites the world over. Let your prayers and your concern be an ever-present encouragement to us. And know of a surety that God will richly reward you for this, for so He has promised.

"I will bless them that bless thee."



# Israel Approaches Armageddon

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THE darkest hour in Jewish history is near. The Day of Jacob's Trouble will plunge the nation into an abyss of anguish beside which the recent happenings in Europe will be but a shadow. In that day it will be too late for any Jew to be saved through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—the Church will no longer be here! She will be with the Lord.

Don't you think that fairness to the Jews requires us to give them the Gospel message now, while it is yet time? Ought we not to show a heart of pity for this poor benighted people, by showering upon them now an overwhelming Gospel testimony? And will not such an act on our part hasten the coming of Him whom our hearts long to see?

Won't you co-work with us? You can't preach to the Jews, but you can pray for them, and you can give of your means to help forward the work. We need so much your prayers, your sympathy, your help. May we have them?

# The Mission and Its Work



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